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ABSTRACT

This instructional program with accompanying videotape is designed to guide parents through the process of teaching good decision making skills to their children in kindergarten through grade 5. The user's guide contains the following sections: (1) "About the Program," with learning objectives, suggestions for using the program, and a program summary; (2) bibliography of 12 resources for parents and parent educators and 20 fiction books for children in grades K-5; (3) the program script; and (4) handouts for parents and children. The 27-minute videotape uses a series of scenarios, commentary by the video's host, and interviews with a parenting expert to present easy-to-implement strategies for teaching good decision-making. The following are the learning objectives for the user's guide and videotape: (1) understand the importance of giving children opportunities to make decisions; (2) recognize that the ability to make good decisions develops over time; (3) teach children a variety of strategies for making good decisions; (4) explain the difference between considering emotions and acting on impulse when making decisions; (5) allow children to experience and learn from the consequences of their own decisions; (6) get children in the habit of considering values when making decisions; (7) understand that mistakes in decision making are also opportunities for growth; (8) recognize when it is necessary to step in and decide for a child; and (9) learn to balance their own need to stay in control with helping their children become independent thinkers and decision makers. (KB)

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